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COMIC SHOP NEWS

PETER MILLIGAN

DAVIDE GIANFELICE

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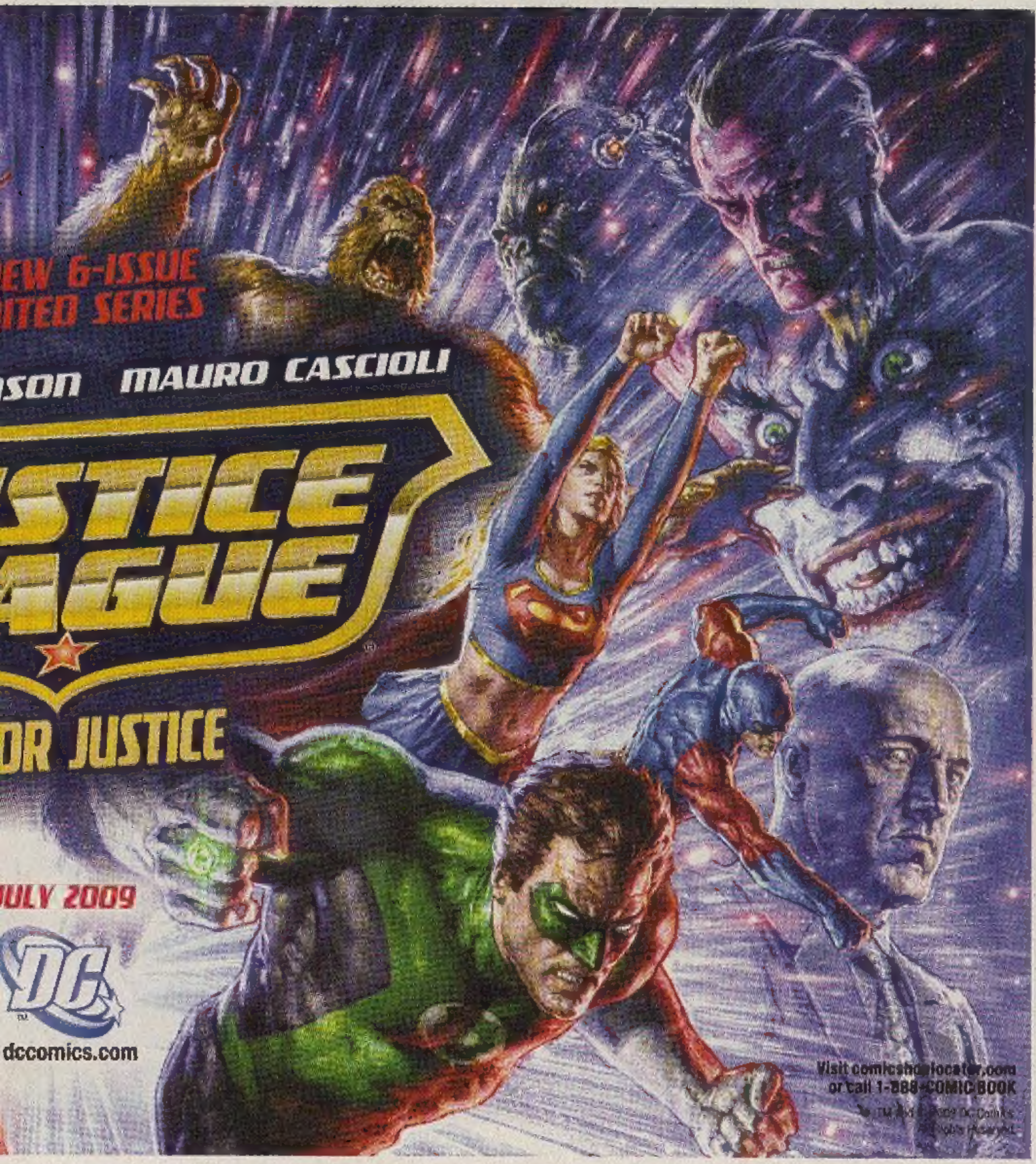
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The Glory That Was Greek Street

Soho's Greek Street has quite a storied history. Legendary writers, mysterious organizations, civil engineers, restaurateurs... all have found a home on Greek Street's at one time or another in the past three hundred years.

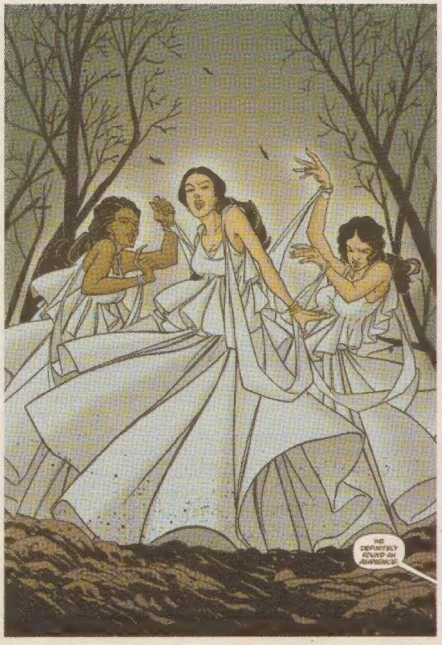
But *Peter Milligan* is going back much further than three centuries for the inspiration for his Vertigo series ***Greek Street***. In fact, he's going back the better part of three millennia, turning to classical Greek tragedies for inspiration for his edgy drama.

Greek Street offers Milligan a venue for channeling the classical tragedies of *Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides,* and others—but the last thing Milligan intends to do is to simply retell those classical dramas in a contemporary setting. Instead, Milligan is drawing inspiration and themes from Dionysian theater... along with a sprawling cast evocative of some of the most famous tragic figures in history.

"There's large cast of people in ***Greek Street,***" Milligan told ***CSN***. "In fact, the stage is hardly big enough for all the characters I'd like to write about! But when we begin, our hero is Eddie. The most unheroic of heroes—an eighteen-year-old kid who was brought up in children's homes. When we meet him, he's arrived a crossroads. He decides to leave his life of petty crime and track down his birth mother.

"Meanwhile, in a stately home called Illium, there is a strange and disturbed young girl afflicted by visions and horrific portends of the future. The story follows these youngsters' journeys, and takes in a large cast of other characters in and around Greek Street. The story can be brutally realistic, but also veers into the fantastic—just as the ancient Greek tragedies used to. What you might call 'tragic realism.'"

What is it about classical Greek tragedies that intrigues Milligan? What was his experience with classical Dionysian tragedy? "My experience initially came through *reading* rather than *seeing* the plays," Milligan said. "And what initially intrigued me about the plays were their complexity—I mean their emotional and moral complexity. Where your average



modern day story might end is where the Greeks would continue asking questions. They keep wondering: 'What happens next?' Is an avenger who kills another human being in some way infected by something of the evil he is trying to counter? And might this evil infect and destroy the entire state?

"It seems to me that running through many of these old plays is the fear that a more barbaric world lurked just beneath the trappings of their civilization (which it did!). I feel that has a real resonance to today and our own situation. With recent economic events, we've all seen how the world can change very quickly. Everything we think of as our reality can be quickly revealed as no more than stage props, which might very easily be pushed aside."

OH YES.
MAN TALKING HIS DOG SAW SOMETHING FLOATING NEAR THE JETTY.
WHAT KIND OF MANIAC WALKS HIS DOG IN THIS TOILET?
I CAN FEEL IT.
THE PAIN...
YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU...
OOHH, PLEASE DON'T...
I CAN'T TALK NOW, I...
WOMAN TROUBLE?
THE USUAL.
I THINK WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING.
?

The first issue of ***Greek Street*** focuses on the aforementioned Eddy, whose situation reverberates with elements of Sophocles' ***Oedipus the King***. Just how closely do Eddy's experiences parallel Oedipus's? "Eddy is, if you like, a modern-day re-imagining of part of the Oedipus myth. But in many ways his story differs from that of Oedipus. For one, he's certainly *not* royal. He's a democratic dysfunctional Oedipus for today, who at times might cease to be Oedipus and become more like Orestes. You could say that all these characters cross some line when it came to their relationships with their mother."

Sophocles' Oedipus suffered a tragic downfall despite—and even because of—his efforts to avoid the fate the gods had decreed for him. However, Eddy seems to willingly walk into a harsh situation with his mother. How does that change things? Will we learn that there's more to the situation than we realize at the end of the first issue. "We *will* learn that there's more to his situation," Milligan said. "But as I said, Eddy is a modern young man, brought up rough, and this is a modern retelling of part of that myth."

Greek tragedy kept the worlds of gods and men largely separate; it was the all-too-human sense of pride, not the direct actions of gods, that led to the downfall of most tragic figures. Readers flashing back to those days of high school literature might remember the importance of *hubris* in Greek tragedy. How will Greek Street deal with that central concept of *hubris*, if at all? "You're right, in that the world of gods and men are quite apart in Greek theater," Milligan said, "*except* when a man's actions displease or break rules laid down by the gods. As for *hubris*—there'll be as much *hubris* in ***Greek Street*** as there is in the world we see around us. An arrogant lord, who believes he's too smart to be caught. Eddy's own mother, who is a tragic figure.

"But with our central figure, I wanted a different kind of tragic hero. The real tragedy of Eddie is what's been done to him. Thrown away like an unwanted thing, brought up rough, then thrown out again when he's eighteen, unprepared for the tough world that awaits him. The hubris belongs to the society that creates a little monster like Eddie."

And what about the whole classical structure, with tragedies presented in trilogy form—will that structure be reflected in Milligan's drama? "The story has mythic resonances, but I'm not going to be restricted to using the structure of trilogies. We *do* make use some classical devices though: we have a chorus."

What convinced Milligan that the comics market was ready for this sort of edgy series with classical roots? "Who said I was convinced?" Milligan said with a laugh. "Seriously, as soon as readers look at this book, they'll see that the classical roots are the building blocks, but the story is about real – if sometimes outlandish – people. It has the frenetic energy of a some kind of crazy soap opera."

Will the story work for those who aren't familiar with the source material? "One hundred per cent," Milligan asserted.

In its promotions, Vertigo has compared ***Greek Street*** to an HBO drama. Does Milligan see that comparison as valid? "I see that, in that it is a complex slowly-evolving story involving complex characters, and hopefully has that kind of smart take on modern life that the best HBO drama does."

Greek Street is illustrated by *Davide Gianfelice*, best known for his work as artist if ***Northlanders***. How did he relocate to ***Greek Street?*** "*Will Dennis* – editor on ***Greek Street*** – worked with Davide on ***Northlanders*** ,so there was already a connection there. We did look at some other artists – some of whom were really good – but Davide stood out as perfect for this project. This is a character-driven story and Davide draws great characters. There's also a lot of sexiness in this story and Davide…well, he draws such bloody sexy women!"

Readers can pay a visit to ***Greek Street*** this week, when Vertigo releases the first issue of Milligan's complex drama. And to make it easy for readers to sample the ***Street*** life, Vertigo is following the same successful model they introduced with ***Unwritten:*** they're releasing the forty-page first issue with a bargain $1 pricetag!

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News*
in cooperation with Matt Brady and *newsarama.com*

CSNsider

•Dynamite Entertainment has landed a license to bring *Robocop* back to print. "What makes *Robocop* such an interesting canvas is that the series has always explored larger themes, including gentrification, the media, and human nature," publisher *Nick Barrucci* said, "All while delivering a riveting a visceral experience." Look for the series to debut later this year.

•***USA Today***, which has never run comic strips previously, is about to break that pattern with the inclusion of *John Arcudi & Lee Bermejo's* Superman strip from the upcoming *Wednesday Comics* series.The strip will appear in the paper on the same day that *Wednesday Comics* goes on sale.

•A few weeks ago, we told you that Archie was going to propose in *Archie #600*. Now we can report that Archie takes the next step in #601, entitled "Archie Marries Veronica Part 2: The Wedding." "Yes, nearly 70 years of Archie Comics history is about to be turned on its head, and the past 15 years' worth of love triangle status quo faces potentially permanent extinction," Archie Comics' *Rik Offenberger* said. "In fact, we'll even go so far as to call it the Archie Story of the Century." Look for it in early September.

•*Oprah Winfrey* gets another moment in the spotlight in September with the release of ***Female Force: Oprah Winfrey***, a biographical comic from Bluewater Productions. "When you conjure up the concept of 'Female Force,' there are very few who immediately come to mind and Oprah's name rises to the top of that list," Bluewater president *Darren Davis* said."Her influence on our culture has been profound."

•Don't be confused when you see the variant cover edition of ***Adventure Comics #1***—the variant, featuring a cover image by *Francis Manapul*, will be labelled ***Adventure Comics #504***, continuing the legacy numbering of the legendary DC series.

•Dark Horse's ***Disney's Uncle Scrooge*** syrocostyle statue has sold out of its limited 900-copy run prior to release. This August-release sculpture is the first in a series of six statues; it will be followed by Yoe! Studios sculpts of Donald Duck, Gyro Gearloose, Magica De Spell, Gladstone Gander, and one of the Beagle Boys.

Back to Press

•*Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely's* ***Batman & Robin #1***—2nd printing will feature a recolored version of the original cover (APR098378, in stores next week).

•*John Layman & Rob Guillory's* ***Chew #1*** (APR098373, in stores this week).

• *Tim Beedle & Armand Villavert's* ***Muppet Robin Hood #1***—2nd printing will feature a new cover by *Christopher Schons* (APR098331, in stores in mid-July).

•*Erik Larsen's* ***Savage Dragon #150*** (MAR098163, in stores this week).

•***New Mutants #2*** (APR098387, in stores July 15th).

•***Deadpool: Suicide Kings #1*** (Apr098384, in stores July 15th).

•***Deadpool: Suicide Kings #2*** (APR098385, in stores July 15th).

•***Deadpool: Suicide Kings #3*** (APR098386, in stores July 15th).

•***X-Men Forever #1*** (MAY098026, in stores July 15th).

My Ramona

If there's any Silver Age artist whose contribution to comics is underrated, it would have to be *Ramona Fradon*. From her early work on DC's Aquaman short stories to her inimitable run on the offbeat ***Metamorpho*** to her work on ***Super Friends*** to her comic strip work on ***Brenda Starr***, Fradon demonstrated that it was possible to succeed in comics without yielding to a "house style."

The first long-overdue recognition of Fradon's accomplishments came in 2006, when she was inducted into the Comic Book Hall of Fame. And later this year, her career will get more long-overdue attention via Dynamite Entertainment's ***The Ramona Fradon Storyteller Book***, a hardcover retrospective of Fradon's 45-year career.

Written by her comic book industry colleagues (and Fradon aficionados) *Howard Chaykin* and *Walter Simonson*, this comprehensive collection of articles and interviews will celebrate Fradon's artistic career, accomplishments, and creations from her the early days at DC in the 1950's to her later work on Marvel's ***The Cat*** and ***Fantastic Four*** and DC's ***Plastic Man, Freedom Fighters, Super Friends***, and more. The 200-page ***Ramona Fradon Storyteller Book*** will also offer an extensive, art-laden look at the characters that Fradon co-created, such as Aqualad and Metamorpho—as well as her acclaimed work outside the super hero genre, including ***Brenda Starr***, a comic strip about a glamorous, adventurous reporter.

"We are honored to have this opportunity to present the career of one of the most celebrated artists in comics," Dynamite publisher *Nick Barrucci* said. "*Ramona Fradon* co-created some the greatest icons of the comic book worlds and her style is timeless. She is an inspiration, and when speaking with Howard and Walter, the passion that they showed convinced me that this is a great project to work on. Fans who know Ramona's work will love this retrospective piece—and new fans will be astonished by what Ramona has accomplished. And to top it all off, having legends *Howard Chaykin* and *Walter Simonson* put this book together makes the project something truly special."

The Ramona Fradon Storyteller Book is slated for late 2009 release.

Coming Comics—DC in September

Spilling out of the finale of August's "Codename: Patriot" comes "The Hunt for Reactron," which finds Supergirl forced to rely on a childhood friend who's no longer so friendly in order to find her father's assassin. The story begins in ***Action #881*** and continues into ***Supergirl #45***.

SPIDER-MAN BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

SPIDER-MAN HAS BEEN TRAILING WOLVERINE--OR SO HE THOUGHT!
YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME, BUB?
WOW! HE SENSED MY PRESENCE!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-8
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I THOUGHT YOU FEEL TRAPPED IN CITIES--LIKE A REAL WOLVERINE WOULD.
YEAH--BUT I GOT BORED ROAMIN' THE STICKS.
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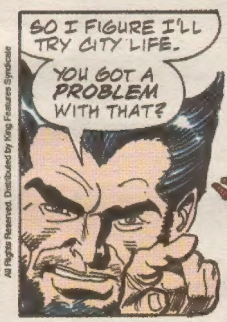

NOT ME. IT'S A FREE COUNTRY.
BETTER KEEP IT THAT WAY!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-9
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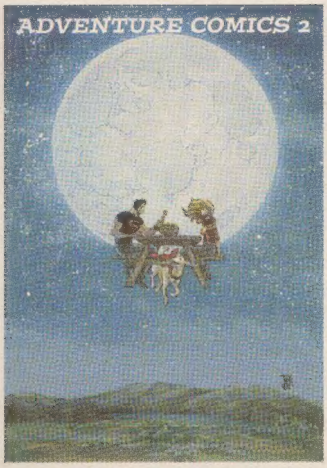

Superboy is back and living out his teenage years in Smallville. But all is not as it seems in Superman's hometown. And while Conner reunites with his former girlfriend Wonder Girl to see if they have a future together, Lex Luthor and Brainiac form a partnership that will cause havoc throughout the DC Universe. Witness it all in ***Adventure Comics* #2** by *Geoff Johns & Francis Manapul*; this issue also features a Lightning Lad-focused Legion of Super-Heroes backup tale by *Geoff Johns, Michael Shoemaker, & Clayton Henry.*

Judd Winick, Mark Bagley, & Rob Hunter continue the saga of the new Batman's confrontation with the Penguin and Two-Face in ***Batman* #690.**

Meet the Red Hood and his sidekick Scarlet, Gotham City's vicious new "protectors," in ***Batman & Robin* #4**, the start of a new arc by *Grant Morrison* and artists *Philip Tan & Jonathan Glapion.* This dangerous duo is out to destroy the very reputation and legacy of the Batman by replacing it altogether!

As the dead attack in full force in *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, & Oclair Albert's* ***Blackest Night* #3**, Green Lantern is faced with an impossible decision and the scattered remains of the Justice League suffer a terrible loss. Who can stop the Black Lanterns? Why are they rising? And how can the Spectre help?

Is Dick Grayson's tenure as Batman destined to be very short-lived? And just how ominous will Red Robin's reunion with his father be? Find out in *Peter Tomasi & Adryan Syaf's* ***Blackest Night: Batman* #2**.

Psycho Pirate launches an attack on Smallville in *James Robinson & Eddy Barrows'* ***Blackest Night: Superman* #2**. But that's not Smallville's only problem: there's also the matter of Superman's dead bride, who is back as a Black Lantern...

Black Lantern Hawk has his talons set for the female Hawk and Dove in *JT Krul & Ed Benes'* ***Blackest Night: Titans* #2**. Meanwhile, Red Star faces a frightful family reunion with Black Lanterns Pantha and Wildebeest, and Donna Troy faces her worst possible nightmare.

Booster Gold faces off against Black Beetle for the fate of the entire Justice League in *Dan Jurgens'* ***Booster Gold* #24**. But Black Beetle isn't all he seems, and his one, true identity is revealed at last.

The wait is over as *J. Michael Straczynski* arrives on ***The Brave & The Bold*—**and his first tale (illustrated by *Jesus Saiz*) pairs Batman and...Dial H For Hero? Robby Reed and his grandfather thought their brief visit to Gotham City would go smoothly until one of Gotham's petty thieves made the score of the century in the form of Robby's H-Dial!

In a battle along the outskirts of time, the secrets of the Speed Force have been revealed! The new arch-nemesis of those who ride the lightning is coming for Iris Allen. And the Barry Allen you knew is gone forever...or is he? What change does Wally West face? What destiny will Kid Flash choose? Prepare to meet a Flash Family that's both familiar and different in ***The Flash: Rebirth* #6**, the final issue of *Geoff Johns & Ethan Van Sciver's* history-making miniseries.

For months, Mongul has wrested control of the Sinestro Corps. Now Sinestro wants a word with him. And Hal wants a word with Sinestro. But in ***Green Lantern* #46** by *Geoff Johns & Doug Mahnke*, they'll *all* become the hunted as the fallen Sinestro Corps members rise.

The recently deceased Sciencell convicts who lost their lives in the riots become Black Lanterns in *Peter Tomasi & Patrick Gleason's* ***Green Lantern Corps* #40**, and they're not going to rest until the bloody hearts and minds of the Green Lanterns are literally in their hands.

When a battle between Epoch and the Time Commander spills over into our era, the Justice League finds itself scattered throughout time. That leaves Superman and Dr. Light fighting alongside a tornado-powered Samurai, Green Lantern and Red Arrow locked in a showdown with Cinnamon in the Old West, Green Arrow and Firestorm facing the Bride of Frankenstein in WWII, John Stewart and Vixen drawing swords alongside the Shining Knight, and Black Canary and Zatanna evading gangsters with the original Crimson Avenger in ***Justice League of America 80-Page Giant #1!***

Supergirl and Shazam join the team in *James Robinson & Mauro Cascioli's* ***Justice League: Cry for Justice* #3**. And it's just in time, too, because when Prometheus is finally caught and his evil machinations are revealed, the League finds out they may be unable to stop him.

Keith Giffen, Howard Porter, & John Dell follow a Justice Society member as he breaks out into his own series in ***Magog* #1**. Tired of chafing at the restraints that being a member of the JSA put upon him, Magog decides to take justice into his own hands and track down who's behind the dealing of high-tech arms to lowlife scum around the DC Universe.

In ***Red Tornado* #1**, *Kevin VanHook, Jose Luisi, & JP Mayer* shine a new light on the true origin of Red Tornado, the Justice League of America's resident android superhero! You'll not only discover a crew of characters new to the DC Universe, but if Red Tornado has his way, you'll also uncover the hero's true android family!

Last month, *J. Michael Straczynski* reintroduced readers to the world of the Red Circle heroes. Now their exploits continue in a pair of new first issues: ***The Shield* #1** by *Eric Trautmann, Marco Rudy, & Mick Gray* (which also features an Inferno co-feature by *Brandon Jerwa & Greg Scott*); and ***The Web* #1** by *Angela Robinson, Roger Robinson, & Hilary Barta* (which also features a Hangman co-feature by *John Rozum, Tom Derenick, & Bill Sienkiewicz*):

Witness Supergirl's initial attempt to live her double life in ***Supergirl Annual* #1's** "Linda Lang: Day One" by *Sterling Gates, Fernando Dagnino, & Raul Fernandez.* And as an added bonus, learn the secret origin of Superwoman!

Hot on the heels of their acclaimed run on ***Action Comics***, superstars *Geoff Johns & Gary Frank* reunite to present ***Superman: Secret Origin***, a 6-issue event that spells out the definitive origin of Superman for the 21st century – and it all starts with a gigantic 48-page issue! Chronicling Clark Kent's journey from the cornfields of Smallville to the skyscrapers of Metropolis, you'll witness a whole new look at the beginnings of Lex Luthor, the Legion of Super-Heroes, Lois Lane, Metallo, Jimmy Olsen, the Parasite and more.

Teen Titans celebrates its 75th issue with an all-star cast of Titans past and present! Joining this issue for the extravaganza is new ongoing writer *Felicia D. Henderson*, a co-executive producer on TV's hit show ***Fringe***.

The weekly ***Wednesday Comics*** continues in September with #s 9-12, each of which features 15 more 14" x 20" full-color pages by the likes of *Neil Gaiman, Brian Azzarello, Mike Allred, Kyle Baker, Joe Kubert, Dave Gibbons*, and others.

"The Rise of the Olympian" has changed Wonder Woman's life completely, and the drama continues in *Gail Simone, Aaron Lopresti, & Matt Ryan's* ***Wonder Woman* #36** as Diana finds herself fighting for her life against the man destined by the gods to take her place – Achilles, the Warkiller!

DC collected editions (advance-solicited for October release) include:

•***Batman Chronicles Volume 8 TP***, collecting Batman tales from ***Batman* #s 14 & 15, *Detective* #s 71-74**, and ***World's Finest* #s 8 & 9.**

•***Batman: Monsters TP***, collecting stories by *James Robinson, Warren Ellis*, and others that originally appeared in ***Legends of the Dark Knight* #s 71-73, 83, 84, 89 & 90.**

•***Batman: Battle for the Cowl HC***, collecting the

Continued on page 6

FACE IT, LOGAN... WHERE YOU GO, TROUBLE USUALLY FOLLOWS.
NOT THIS TIME, BUB.
CALLING ALL CARS! DR. OCTOPUS PULLING OFF A BANK ROBBERY AT LEXINGTON AND--
NYPD
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-10
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WELL, GOTTA GO ROUND UP DR. OCTOPUS...
FWIPP!
NOT SO FAST, BUB.
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WHERE IS IT WRITTEN THAT I CAN'T TACKLE 'IM, TOO?
OKAY, IF YOU WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW WOLVERINE'S IN TOWN...
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three-part *Tony Daniel* miniseries along with ***Gotham Gazette: Batman Dead?*** and ***Batman Alive?***

- ***Blackhawk: Blood & Iron TP***, collecting *Howard Chaykin's* 1988 miniseries.
- ***Green Lantern: Agent Orange HC***, collecting ***Green Lantern #s 39-42***.
- ***Green Lantern Corps: Emerald Eclipse HC***, collecting ***Blackest Night*** prelude tales from ***GLC #s 33-38***.
- ***Jonah Hex: Lead Poisoning TP***, collecting ***Jonah Hex #s 37-42***.
- ***The Question Volume 5: Riddles TP***, collecting ***Question #s 25-30***.
- ***Sgt. Rock: Lost Battalion HC***, collecting the *Billy Tucci* six-parter.
- ***Showcase Presents House of Secrets Volume 2 TP***, collecting ***House of Secrets #s 99-119***.
- ***Superman: Red Son Deluxe Edition HC***, which supplements the three-issue limited series with numerous bonuses.
- ***Superman: The Adventures of Flamebird & Nightwing TP***, collecting tales from ***Superman Family #s 173 & 183-194***.
- ***Trinity Volume 3 TP***, collecting the final third of the epic *Kurt Busiek-Mark Bagley* adventure.
- ***Wonder Woman: Rise of the Olympian HC & TP***, a simultaneous-format release of the saga from ***Wonder Woman #s 20-27***.

Coming Comics—Zuda/DC in September

David Gallaher & Steve Ellis present a horror tale of cowboys and werewolves in the Old West in ***High Moon***, a 192-page trade paperback edition of Zuda's acclaimed online adventure that begins with a gruff bounty hunter, Matthew Macgregor, investigating a series of strange happenings in the dusty town of Blest, Texas. While Macgregor seeks to uncover the town's dark secrets, he tries desperately to keep his own hidden.

Coming Comics—Wildstorm/DC in September

Mark Andreyko joins with artists *Mike Huddleston, Grant Bond, Christopher Gugliotti, & Fiona Staples* to present ***Trick'r Treat***, a graphic novel adaptation of the upcoming Halloween scarefest. Halloween has always been a night of tricks and treats, but this year, it's nothing but a cornucopia of tricks as werewolves, demons, killers and zombies celebrate the festival of Samhain!

Wildstorm collected editions (advance solicited for October release) include:

- ***Gen13: World's End TP***, collecting ***Gen13 #s 21-26***.
- ***Storming Paradise TP***, collecting *Chuck Dixon's* compelling alternate-history tale depicting the Allied invasion of WWII Japan.
- ***Stormwatch PHD: World's End TP***, collecting ***Stormwatch PHD #s 13-19***.

Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in September

Best-selling author *Kevin Baker* joins with author *Danijel Zezelj* to present the original graphic novel ***Luna Park***, a powerful tale set against the backdrop of Coney Island. Ten years ago, Alik Strelnikov gave up his life in the Russian Army to become an enforcer in the Brooklyn mob. Now he lives in the shadow of Coney Island, a world of silenced rides and rusting amusement parks that mock his dreams of becoming a hero, where he chases his ghosts with all he has left: booze, heroin and his lover, Marina, part-time prostitute and full-time fortune teller. The only way the two of them can escape their miserable fates hinges on a desperate plan that will put them between warring mobs.

Simon Bisley makes a rare interior-art contribution as he joins *Peter Milligan* for ***Hellblazer #259***, the first of two Bisley-illustrated issues.

Jeff Lemire launches a quirky fantasy drama in the pages of ***Sweet Tooth***. After being raised in total isolation, Gus – a boy born with deer-like antlers who is part of a rare breed of infection-resistant human-animal hybrids – is left to survive in an American landscape devastated a decade earlier by an inexplicable pandemic. He's taken in by a drifter who has set up "The Preserve," a safe-haven for hybrid children. Along the way they'll have to contend with science militias, deadly scavengers, rival bounty hunters, and hybrid worshipping cultists...

Vertigo collected volumes (advance solicited for October release) include:

- ***Blood & Water TP***, collecting the five-issue miniseries by *Judd Winick*.
- ***Jack of Fables Volume 6: The Big Book of War TP***, collecting ***Jack of Fables #s 28-32***.
- ***Saga of the Swamp Thing Book 2 HC***, collecting *Alan Moore's* tales from ***Saga of the Swamp Thing #s 28-34 & Swamp Thing Annual #2***.
- ***Scalped Volume 5: High Lonesome TP***, collecting ***Scalped #s 25-29***.

Coming in February from DC Direct

DC Direct kicks off a line of anime-inspired interpretations of its best-known heroes with the ***Ame-Comi Hero Series Batman PVC Figure***. Meanwhile, the ***Ame-Comi Heroine Series*** continues with a female ***Robin*** figure.

Marshall Rogers' art is the inspiration for the *Ray Villafane*—sculpted ***Batman Black & White Statue—Batman by Marshall Rogers***.

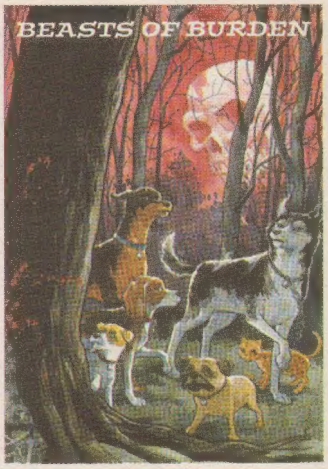
The ***Batman: Mad Love Collector Set*** offers repaint action figures of Harley Quinn and the Joker, along with a 64-page reprint of ***Batman: Mad Love***.

Adam Hughes' art is the inspiration for the ***Cover Girls of the DC Universe Power Girl Statue***, which is based on Hughes' art for the cover of ***Power Girl #2***.

JLA Classified Classic Series 2 features new action figures of ***Green Lantern, Superman (Blue), Batgirl, & Aquaman***.

Sculptor *Derek Miller* does the honors on the ***Superman/Batman: Public Enemies DVD Superman Maquette*** and ***Batman Maquette***, each based on the art of *Ed McGuinness*.

Women of the DC Universe Series 3, based on the art of *Amanda Conner*, kicks off with a regal ***Hippolyta Bust***, sculpted by *Barsom*.

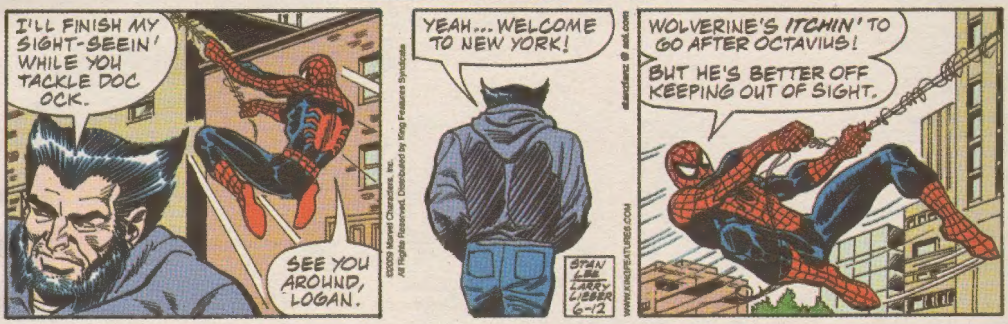


Coming Comics—Dark Horse in September

Evan Dorkin and *Jill Thompson*, who are well known to comics fans for their quirkier, more light-hearted works, blend a touch of horror-suspense with four-legged fun in the ***Beasts of Burden*** miniseries. When supernatural occurrences sweep the community of Burden Hill, it's up to a heroic gang of cats and dogs to keep residents safe from harm. A bizarre disturbance leads these four-legged neighbors on a wild-goose chase into the depths of the nearby forest, where loyalties are tested and lives come to an abrupt end.

September brings a pair of syroco-styled statues. ***Classic Simpsons Characters #4: Bart Simpson*** depicts *Matt Groening's* most famous character, while ***Classic Uncle Scrooge Characters #4: Magica De Spell*** spotlights the envious spell-caster who hopes to steal Uncle Scrooge's "number one dime" in order to magically build wealth for herself. Each statue is packaged in a special litho-printed, full-color tin box with a vintage-style pin-back button and booklet.

American Book Award winner *Eric Drooker*


I'LL FINISH MY SIGHT-SEEIN' WHILE YOU TACKLE DOC OCK.
SEE YOU AROUND, LOGAN.
YEAH... WELCOME TO NEW YORK!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-12
WOLVERINE'S ITCHIN' TO GO AFTER OCTAVIUS!
BUT HE'S BETTER OFF KEEPING OUT OF SIGHT.
I HATED TO TURN DOWN WOLVERINE'S OFFER OF HELP...
BUT HE'S BETTER OFF KEEPING A LOW PROFILE.
FWIP!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-13
'CAUSE WHEN I TACKLE DOC OCK--
--IT'S SURE TO GET A LOT OF ATTENTION!
NO ONE CAN STOP ME!
MAMMON NATIONAL BANK
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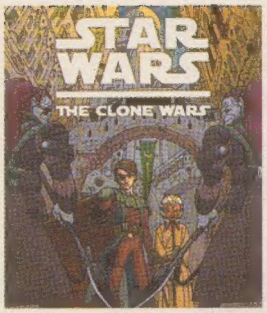
remasters his second graphic novel, the visually bold and politically charged ***Blood Song: A Silent Ballad***, for its Dark Horse debut. Consisting mainly of full-page images, spreads, and diptychs, ***Blood Song*** follows a young girl as she travels from her war-torn island to a busy metropolis, from lush jungles to cold concrete and steel, and finds something that eludes most denizens of bustling, noisy, wasteful cities: love.

Crossing the Empty Quarter & Other Stories collects over thirty short tales by London-based writer/artist *Carol Swain*. Swain's introspective, boldly executed, and visually unique works are peppered with magical realism, autobiography, and tenacious punk attitudes. While her tales cover a wide range of emotions, politics, and societal ills, they are all tied together with an art style that is universally appealing.

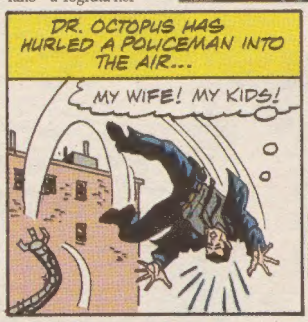
Anakin Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi attempt to thwart Count Dooku's scheme to enslave the city of Kiros and its Togruta population in ***Star Wars: The Clone Wars—Slaves of the Republic TP***. Along with Padawan Ahsoka Tano—a Togruta herself—Anakin and Obi-Wan accept a mission to liberate the droid-occupied city. But first they have to find the missing Togruta...



Stan Sakai presents his first-ever full-color Usagi Yojimbo original graphic novel in ***Usagi Yojimbo: Yokai***. Yokai are the monsters, demons, and spirits of Japanese folklore, such as the shape-changing kitsune, the obakeneko demon cats, and the evil oni ogres. Usagi faces all these and more when a desperate woman begs for his help in finding her kidnapped husband.

Dark Horse collected volumes include:

- ***Beanworld Book 3 TP: Remember Here When You Are There***, a 186-page volume that completes writer/artist *Larry Marder's* "Springtime" cycle of stories.
- ***BPRD: The Black Goddess TP***, collecting the five-part miniseries by *Mike Mignola, John Arcudi, & Guy Davis*.
- ***The Cleaners: Absent Bodies***, collecting the miniseries by *Mark Wheaton, Joshua Hale Fialkov, & Rahsan Ekedal*.
- ***Mister X: Condemned TP***, collecting the *Dean Motter* miniseries.
- ***Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic Volume 7—Dueling Ambitions TP***, collecting more adventures of former Padawan Zayne Carrick.
- ***Turok, Son of Stone Archives Volume 4 HC***, collecting ***Turok #s 19-24*** from the Silver Age Dell/Gold Key run.


DR. OCTOPUS HAS HURLED A POLICEMAN INTO THE AIR...
MY WIFE! MY KIDS!
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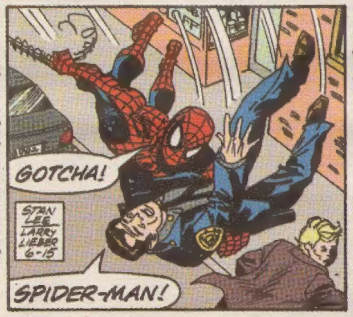

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PREVIEWS

One Catalog. TONS of Cool Stuff.

From comic books to action figures, games to DVDs, there's something for everyone in the July issue of *PREVIEWS*!

ON THE COVER ...

FALLOUT TOYWORKS #1—Inspired by the ideas and lyrics of *Fall Out Boy*, **Fallout ToyWorks** is a 5-issue Image Comics series set in the future, in which a young toymaker creates the ultimate robot girl, featuring the art of Imaginary Friends Studios, the team behind Radical's *Hercules: Caliber*, and *City of Dust*!

BEASTS OF BURDEN #1—Evan Dorkin and Jill Thompson return to Dark Horse with their band of animal heroes in **Beasts of Burden**, as bizarre occurrences lead these four-legged neighbors into the depths of the forest, where loyalties are tested and lives come to an abrupt end!

430+ pages of cool stuff that starts shipping in September!

CHECK OUT THESE OFFERINGS:

Usagi Yojimbo: Yokai HC—Stan Sakai's *Usagi Yojimbo* celebrates his 25th anniversary with this original, full-color graphic novel, in which the Rabbit Ronin must not only aid a desperate woman in finding her kidnapped husband, but also fight off a ghostly invasion!

Superman: Secret Origin #1—Hot on the heels of their acclaimed run on *Action Comics*, Geoff Johns and Gary Frank reunite to present this 6-issue event spelling out the definitive origin of Superman for the 21st century — and it all starts with this big 48-page issue!

Underground #1—Writer Jeff Parker and artist Steve Lieber (*Whiteout*) present a new thriller involving a Park Ranger's efforts to save an untouched cave system from becoming a tourist trap... fighting against public opinion — and for her life — deep below the mountains of Kentucky!

Vengeance of Moon Knight #1—Freed of his demons and armed with an incredible new arsenal, *Moon Knight* is finally the hero he always aspired to be — taking out criminals with massive flair and throwing down the gauntlet to his old nemesis: Normen Osborn, the guy who ran him out of town in the first place!

AND BE SURE NOT TO MISS:

- **Women of the DCU Series 3: Hippolyta Bust** from DC Direct!
- **Marvel Minimates Infinity Gauntlet Box Set** from DST!
- **The Batman Vault** in the Books Section!
- **Bowen Designs' Planet Hulk Statue** in the Statues Section!
- **Bruce Lee as Kato 1/6th Scale Figure** in the Import Toys Section!
- **And Much, Much More!**

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